Rom Scala Dante
5th July 1875

My dear Maria

So you want to know what Joan said about her visit to you & here it is

"arthur and I went on Monday last
"to see your Sister (our Aunt Maria) &
"found her very well - I thought her
"such a sweet old lady & very handsome
"I hope to be able to go & see her pretty
"often — There now I think you'll be
well pleased with my daughter Joan

We are in the great heat at last tho much delayed by snatches of rain as you have it in England - so I have begun my baths & the Trevi water is medicated by my excellent Doctor to be the same as that of Tolfa - I have had 4 baths with good effect of a 1/4 of an hour each & then I go to bed for 1/2 an hour - not I need all this

but as the Tivoli hot Springs has cured me of the rheumatism I think it well to continue the dips now & then to keep me well, particularly in the Roman Summer

So far I am doing very well, going out every day & walking 2 miles at times, always up at 6, dine at 1 & at 9 a nice salad for supper. I confess to a little loneliness at times as I have lost all my dear old friends & I do not feel proud in having survived them, but to be able to enjoy the tranquility of Rome is a great matter. I am very idle & my picture of the port of Basil is not yet done but it only wants the flowers which are not yet out. I try not to trouble myself with any thing & have actually contrived to have a new pair of trowsers. but my cloaths do me no credit for they have become so tight that I cannot "come it". The selling my picture of Keats Grave has been a great feather

in my case — I am glad to hear that poor dear Tom is able to go up & down stairs, & that you showd off in a new gown for Joan's visit & that you have summer days — What you say about the climates changing is certainly true Easter is no longer very fine at Rome but has always a touch of winter & I think your Easter is now better than when we remember it as children

I don't know about my Roman Summer & how it will agree with me, but as it always did agree with me, so now I have every hope in it more particularly as I have this excellent Doctor at my elbow

He & his wife & two servants make me very comfortable & perhaps I was never so well to do in Rome — We always meet at meals except breakfast & the Doctor is really good company — the signora is a capital housekeeper & they gave a dinner the other day to 14 friends in the best style, so that if I want to invite Js's I can do it with a good grace — as yet I have

& I dont see that they pick up as I did,

How I should like to see my dear brothers for I do often think of them, but tis impossible tho' Charley slightly hints that some day he may take me by surprise as a fortnight or 3 weeks would be enough for him or any dear one who can venture

my painting looks up tho' I am difficult to satisfy but I have patience to do the same thing over & over again & my picture for pot of Basil is perhaps somewhat better than I expected - I am not allowed to go out in the evenings but I am fond of my home

This letter is badly written owing to some new invented ink which I shall throw out of window - The volume of Keats you may send me book post & I enclose you some book stamps, tho' the 6d one is my last I have to send you, my love to all particularly dear Tom your summer is I fear at an end

Sept. 16th.

your loving brother Joe